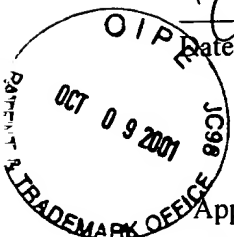


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October 5, 2001

Ayesha S. Wilks



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Attorney Docket No.: 501082.04 (98-0616.03)

Serial No. : 09/652,993

Group Art Unit : 2815

Filed : August 31, 2000

Examiner : Jose R. Diaz

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

7/B

10-17-01

T. Flowers

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated April 11, 2001, and herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) for a three-month extension of time for filing this response from July 11, 2001, to October 11, 2001. Submitted herewith is a check in the amount of \$920, which includes the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 50-1266.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A method of passivating a conductive material, comprising:  
providing said conductive material, wherein said conductive material has an ability to associate with oxygen; and

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